

requesting, by said applicant apparatus, said payment acceptance server to pay a fee by designating a payment amount;

making, by said payment acceptance server, a payment credit inquiry to a financial institution in response to a fee payment request issued from said applicant apparatus, forming a payment certificate used to indicate that said fee payment is guaranteed when it can be judged that the fee payment of an applicant can be guaranteed in said credit inquiry, and then transmitting the formed payment certificate to said applicant apparatus;

attaching, by said applicant apparatus, said payment certificate to the document to be transmitted to thereby constitute a document with a payment certificate in an encryption form, and then transmitting said document with the payment certificate to said agent apparatus;

transmitting, by said agent apparatus, the received document with the payment certificate to said document acceptance server; and

confirming, by said document acceptance server, that a payment certificate sent from said agent apparatus is an "unused" payment certificate, and thereafter saving said document with the payment certificate into a storage apparatus.

16. A document transmit method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said payment certificate includes a management number and information as to at least one of said payment amount, applicant information, an expiration date, and a signature of said payment acceptance server, in addition to information that the fee payment of said applicant can be guaranteed.

17. A document transmit method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said document acceptance server changes a use state of said payment certificate into a "used" state thereof after confirming that the use state of said payment certificate is an "unused" state.

18. A document transmit method as claimed in claim 16, wherein when storing said payment certificate in said storage apparatus, said document acceptance server stores said management number and a use state of said payment certificate in a correspondence manner.

19. A document transmit system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said payment certificate includes a management number and information as to at least one of said payment amount, applicant information, an expiration data, and a signature of said payment acceptance server, in addition to information that the fee payment of said applicant can be guaranteed. --

#### **REMARKS**

The above-referenced application was intended to be filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on March 6, 2002 as a divisional application of application Serial No. 09/203,609, filed December 2, 1998 wherein claims 1-3 and 5-14 were canceled and claim 4 was elected for further prosecution on the merits. However, in submitting the Utility Patent Application Transmittal for the present application, Applicants' inadvertently at "Item 18" check the box indicating that the above-referenced application was a continuation of

application Serial No. 09/203,609 instead of the box indicating the present application is a Divisional Application Serial No. 09/203,609.

Applicants intention was to file the present application as divisional application Serial No. 09/203,609, filed December 2, 1998 based on the non-elected invention as set forth in claims 1-3 and 5-14. Applicants intention was also to in "Item 18" check the box indicating that the above-referenced application is a divisional of application Serial No. 09/203,609.


Therefore, present Amendment is being filed to correct the above described inadvertent error and to add new claims 15-19 directed to the invention as set forth in claims 1-3 and 5-14. To further correct this inadvertent error the present Amendment amends the first line of the specification as is indicated above.

Entry of the above amendments prior to examination is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.36774VX1).

Respectfully submitted,

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